

## What Do Traction Advisories Mean?

### Traction Tires Advised:

When you see this, oversize loads are prohibited from roadways. For Commercial Vehicle Services and load information, visit [wsdot.wa.gov/commercialvehicle](http://wsdot.wa.gov/commercialvehicle).

TRACTION  
TIRES  
ADVISED

### Traction Tires Required:

When you see this, all passenger vehicles must have **approved traction tires**. And, chains are required on all vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds, including large passenger trucks and SUVs.

TRACTION  
TIRES  
REQUIRED



**Approved traction tires** must have at least an eighth of an inch of tread and be labeled M+S, All Season, or have a Mountain/Snowflake symbol. These tires can be used all year. When you install approved chains, any tire becomes a traction tire. For more information on traction tire options, contact your local tire dealer.

### Tire Chains Required:

When you see this, all vehicles must have approved tire chains, except four- and all-wheel-drive vehicles.

TIRE  
CHAINS  
REQUIRED

**In extreme weather conditions, the advisory may indicate chains are required on four- and all-wheel-drive vehicles. Please remember, studded tires do not meet the chain requirement.**

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- Call **511** for travel information and mountain pass conditions
- Program your radio to WSDOT's Highway Advisory Radio: **530 AM** and **1610 AM**
- WSDOT Winter Information: [wsdot.wa.gov/winter](http://wsdot.wa.gov/winter)
- WSDOT Newsroom: [wsdot.wa.gov/news](http://wsdot.wa.gov/news)
- Mountain Pass Reports: [wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes](http://wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes)
- Cameras and Traffic Alerts: [wsdot.wa.gov/traffic](http://wsdot.wa.gov/traffic)
- Weather: [wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/weather](http://wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/weather)

### Check Your Route



[wsdot.wa.gov/winter](http://wsdot.wa.gov/winter)

**ADA information:** This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the WSDOT Diversity/ADA Affairs team at [wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov) or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA(4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

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Washington State  
Department of Transportation

# 2013-2014 Winter Driving Guide



## WHAT'S INSIDE

- How to prepare for winter driving
- What to carry on winter trips
- Tires and chains
- Roadway advisories

## Winter Travel: Prepare, Equip, Fill up

Winter travel can be tough on you and your car. Make sure you have the right equipment for your winter travel needs.

- Get that maintenance check-up. Don't wait to check your tires, battery, belts, hoses, radiator, lights, brakes, heater/defroster and wipers.
- Talk to your tire dealer about which tires are the best match for your car and your travel.
- Keep a **basic winter survival kit** in your vehicle:
  - ✓ Flashlight
  - ✓ Batteries
  - ✓ Blanket
  - ✓ Gloves/boots
  - ✓ Water/snacks
  - ✓ First aid kit
- Keep your fuel tank full – don't let it fall below half a tank in winter weather.



## Winter Travel: On the Road

- Load your car with winter travel gear:
  - ✓ Tire chains
  - ✓ Ice scraper/snowbrush
  - ✓ Jumper cables
  - ✓ Road flares
- Carry chains. Find out which chains fit your vehicle and practice installing them.\*
- Studded tires do NOT meet the chain requirement. Even vehicles equipped with studded tires need to carry chains.

### Studded Tire Information

Washington allows studded tires Nov. 1 through March 31. All drivers must follow Washington's roadway laws. There is no individual exception to the studded tire law. WSDOT may extend the deadline if forecasts indicate severe winter weather conditions are likely across much of the state.

**\* Washington Administrative Code 204-24-050:** Exception for all-wheel-drive vehicles. When "chains required" signs are posted, all-wheel-drive vehicles will be exempt from the chain requirement when all wheels are in gear and are equipped with approved traction devices as specified in WAC 204-24-040 provided that tire chains for at least one set of drive tires are carried in the vehicle.



## Driving in Snow and Ice

- On ice and snow, take it slow. That means slow down and drive for conditions.
- Turn on headlights.
- Focus on driving. Don't use cruise control.
- Leave extra room between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots.
- Remember, a snowplow driver has a limited field of vision. Stay back 15 car lengths until you're sure it is safe to pass or until the plow pulls off the road.

### The Pass is Closed? Why?

- Unprepared drivers going too fast. Most of the time, the pass is closed to remove blocking vehicles. Don't be the one who closes the road for everyone else.
- Avalanche control. It is usually scheduled at night when traffic is light. During periods of heavy snowfall, daytime closures may be necessary.
- Heavy snow. When heavy snow accumulates in a short amount of time, road crews may close a pass to clear the roads or perform avalanche control.

